

**For Release: Immediate**



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**NEWS RELEASE**

***December 8, 2006***

**VALLEY FORGE HONORS SOLDIERS  
WITH THREE DAYS OF ACTIVITIES MARKING  
HISTORICAL "MARCH-IN"**

Valley Forge National Historical Park will expand its traditional one-day commemoration of the Continental Army's 1777 "March-In" to three days of family-friendly activities on December 16, 17, and 19.

**December 16 (Saturday)**

***Noon - 7:00 p.m.***

Living history interpreters will discuss soldier life and the Valley Forge Encampment. A soldiers picket post will be set-up along the Joseph Plumb Martin Trail as visitors make their way from the Welcome Center to the Muhlenberg site where Oneida Indian Nation warriors, Continental soldiers and camp followers will be dressed in 18<sup>th</sup> century garb.

**Kids March (12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m)**

In addition, marches will be held for boys and girls ages six to 13. Kids will enlist themselves at the enlistment table in the Welcome Center using a replica of an actual continental enlistment form. In exchange, the children will receive their approved enlistment papers into the Army and continental currency. A Park Ranger will distribute wooden muskets while kids learn how to stand like a soldier, how to hold, load and fire a musket, practice marching techniques and discover why soldiers joined the Army.

A kick-off march with the **Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard** will take place at 4:30 p.m. Candlelit walking tours take place every 15 to 20 minutes from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. departing from the Welcome Center Theater.

From 4pm to 7pm, the Colonial Revelers will perform colonial music, dance lessons and colonial games in the Welcome Center area.

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**December 17 (Sunday)**

**11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

On Sunday, December 17, the Muhlenberg Brigade Site will feature the Oneida Indian Nation (until 1:30pm), the Second Pennsylvania Regiment, various NPS rangers in 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing and the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Regiment (African American soldiers).

In the Welcome Center, Dean Malissa of the American Historical Theater will portray General Washington, engaging visitors and answering questions. The Fort McHenry Guard from Baltimore, Maryland will perform a special fife and drum concerts with historic interpretation.

Park Rangers will lead walks to the Muhlenberg Brigade from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with Kids Marches at 10:30 a.m., Noon and 1:30 p.m.

From Noon to 3 p.m. 'Colonial Revelers' will entertain in the Welcome Center.

There will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Memorial Arch at 1 p.m. that will include an opening prayer by The Very Reverend Father James Larson of the Washington Memorial Chapel. An active member of the United States Army and a descendant of Washington's Army at Valley Forge will lay the wreath.

**December 19 (Tuesday)**

**5:00 PM – 8:00 PM** - Welcome Center

Visitors can mingle with General Washington and other roving Colonial personnel, get free dance lessons from the 'Colonial Revelers' and enjoy complimentary holiday refreshments.

The Encampment store will be open with free gift-wrapping for gifts purchased in the store.

*Valley Forge National Historical Park educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777-78.*

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